

Foreign Service Act Changes In 1961

(Incorporated In Foreign Assistance Act)

PREVIOUS PROVISIONS

NEW PROVISIONS

SEC. 701-ORIENTATION AND LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR MEMBERS OF FAMILY

Under previous provisions of 701, the Secretary was authorized to provide only to the extent that space was available for appropriate orientation and language training to spouses of officers and employees in anticipation of the assignment abroad of such officers and employees. This limited training to the extent that only a very few wives could be given any kind of training and then only in the United States when it was known that they were about to be assigned abroad.

Under the new provisions of section 701, the Secretary is authorized to train members of family either in the United States or while abroad and there is no limitation with respect to availability of space or facilities. As a result of this, the Foreign Service Institute may provide special orientation and language training classes for members of family. Family members may also be given training after assignment abroad.

SEC. 872-METHOD OF PAYMENT OF SALARY AND ANNUITY TO RE-EMPLOYED FOREIGN SERVICE ANNUITANTS

Previous provision required the Agency re-employing an annuitant to pay the Department of State the gross sum necessary to cover salary, contributions and leave payments; the Department of State, in turn, was required to pay the annuitant his salary and that portion of his annuity to which he was entitled after making such deductions and withholdings as were required by law.

The amended provision simplifies fiscal arrangements in that it permits the employing agency to pay the re-employed annuitant direct making all withholdings and deductions required by law and to notify the Department accordingly. The Department, in turn, makes necessary adjustments in the annuitant's annuity. This will assist employing agencies throughout the Government and simplify fiscal arrangements within the Department. The method of payment is changed; there is no alteration in any payments.

SEC. 911(9)-TRAVEL FOR REST AND RECUPERATION

The Department did not have this authority prior to passage of the present law.

Under the provisions of new section 911(9), officers and employees and members of their families serving at certain designated hardship posts where there are no nearby places offering climatic or environmental change will be able to travel at Government expense to locations specified for rest and recuperation. One round trip for rest and recuperation can be authorized during a two-year continuous tour or two round trips during a three-year tour of duty. Travel time and the period spent away from the post for rest and recuperation will be charged to annual leave. This new authority combined with the amendment to section 933(a), relating to home leave, will enable the Department to adopt a more realistic and practical tour of duty policy than was possible under existing authority.

SEC. 911(10)-TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR MEMBERS OF FAMILIES ACCOMPANYING EMPLOYEES EN ROUTE TO THEIR POST WHEN SUCH EMPLOYEES ARE TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO ORIENTATION AND TRAINING OR ARE GIVEN OTHER TEMPORARY DUTY

Under the previous authority an officer or employee's dependents could not be given stopover privileges if en route to his post of assignment the officer or employee was temporarily assigned to duty or was to be given orientation and training at another post.

Section 911(10) authorizes the temporary assigning of employees to capital cities or other training centers for briefing and orientation before they start their initial assignment and will permit families to remain with them during such temporary duty or consultation. Per diem may be paid for members of family during such stopover periods while en route to post of assignment.

SEC. 933(a)-CHANGING HOME LEAVE INTERVALS

Previous authority relating to home leave has required completion of two years' continuous service abroad before eligibility for home leave.

The revised provision provides authority for home leave after the completion of 18 months continuous service abroad and requires the granting of home leave upon the completion of 3 years service abroad or as soon thereafter as possible. This provision coupled with the new authority for rest and recuperation travel contained in section 911(9) will permit a more flexible tour of duty policy, depending upon the characteristics of the post of assignment. By combining periods for rest and recuperation with the changed home leave eligibility requirements, officers and employees may be assigned to certain designated hardship posts for tours of duty ranging from 18 months to 3 years and by using the more flexible provisions relating to home leave eligibility, assignments may be made to non-hardship posts up to 5 years.

SEC. 942-TRAVEL FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES

Under previous provisions, medical travel for officers and employees and their dependents could be authorized only for purposes of hospitalization and attendants could accompany only patients too ill to travel alone.

The new provisions authorize the travel of employees or members of their family who need medical care, such as diagnosis, physical examination, inoculations, emergency dental care, out-patient care, hospitalization and obstetrical care when such care is inadequate or not available and when such care cannot be delayed until the employee is eligible for home leave, transfer, rest or recuperation, or other official travel. Added authority relating to the travel of attendants permits an adult to accompany a child too young to travel alone for medical treatment or diagnosis.

This does not change the provisions relating to the payment for medical services, such as diagnosis, emergency dental care or obstetrical care.